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in part or in whole by those reading for degrees in biochemistry or genetics. The papers would be useful too for those organising such courses who wish to find illustrative examples from the clinical

field for the practical relevance of biochemistry and genetics in human medicine.

D.P. Brenton

## *Animal Models of Inherited Metabolic Diseases*

Progress in clinical and biological research, volume 94

Edited by R. Desnick, D.F. Patterson and D.G. Scarpelli

*Alan R. Liss; New York, 1982*

544 pages. £ 43.00

This book covers the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Animal Models of Inherited Disease held in Bethesda in October 1981. The text is divided into 9 sections: The genetic basis of disease; Detection of animal models of human disease; Animal models of lysosomal storage diseases; Inborn errors of connective and epidermal tissues; Inborn errors of immune function and histocompatibility; Inborn errors of hormone action; Other animal model systems and considerations; Compendium of inherited metabolic diseases in animals.

The topics covered vary in depth from 'an overview of mouse models in thalassaemia' to a short description of 'liver neuraminidase deficiency inherited as a single gene deficiency on chromosome 17'. However, since we often learn most about metabolism and genetics from the rarest inborn errors and since one rare mutant animal today can be

a colony tomorrow, this book provides an up-to-date account of the search and exploitation of animal models.

Each chapter has a discussion section which is well edited but the individual contributions are photo-reproduced from typescripts which results in uneven format and quality. The last chapter gives an invaluable compendium of inherited metabolic diseases, which would be difficult to find elsewhere.

Donald Patterson gives a unique rhyming summary of all the chapters at the end of the book - one wonders what Wordsworth would have made of Chediak-Higashi and mucopolysacchariduria!

This book fulfils a definite need and can be recommended for library purchase - at this price, the individual scientist is unlikely to buy the volume.

N.D. Carter